

REMARKS

In Claim 1, the term "containing" is amended to the term "comprising." This amendment is made to make the claim language more consistent and definite, and is not intended to limit Claim 1 in any way.

Claim 1 is also amended to include the PVCR modulator from Claim 2.

Claim 2 has been amended to select L-Tryptophan as the PVCR modulator as supported in the specification at page 3, line 2, and page 11, line 20.

New Claims 3-5, 12, and 16, where directed to specific amounts of L-tryptophan, are supported at page 30, line 10.

New Claims 6, 12, and 16, where directed to 7% of NaCl, are supported at page 29, line 28, and page 30, lines 9-11.

New Claims 7, 8, 9, 13, and 17, directed to a top dressing, are supported at page 75, lines 26-28. New Claims 10, 11, 14, 15, 18, and 19, directed to NaCl or PVCR modulator included in the top dressing are supported at page 75, lines 19, 20, 22, and 23, and page 76, lines 1-2.

No new matter is believed to be added by these amendments.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a); Objection to Claim 2

The Examiner rejected Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Hjaltson, *et al.*, U.S. Patent No. 6,789,502, or alternatively over Seawright, U.S. Patent No. 6,065,245. Also, the Examiner objected to Claim 2 as being dependent on a rejected base claim. The Examiner stated that an independent claim including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims (i.e., a claim incorporating the limitations of Claims 1 and 2, as filed) would be allowable.

Applicants have amended Claim 1 to incorporate the PVCR modulator from Claim 2. Neither Hjaltson nor Seawright teach or suggest a feed comprising NaCl and a PVCR modulator. Thus, the rejection of Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Hjaltson or Seawright is overcome, and its withdrawal is respectfully requested. Consequently, the objection to Claim 2 as being dependent on a rejected claim is obviated as well, and its withdrawal is respectfully requested.

Information Disclosure Statement

An Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) was filed on November 15, 2004. A Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) is being filed concurrently herewith. Entry of these IDSs is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that all claims are in condition for allowance, and it is respectfully requested that the application be passed to issue. If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this case, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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